

Serial No. 10/814,776

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney thanks Examiner Blau for his careful review of this patent application. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1 - 14 were pending in the application. Claims 4, 5, 9, 13, and 14 were withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12 have been amended.

Specification

In paragraph 2, the Office Action objected to the specification based on several informalities. Specifically, the Office Action stated that on page 6, lines 1 - 2, and on page 7, lines 4 - 5, it was not certain what the linear density of the first portion was greater than. The specification at page 6, lines 1 - 2 and page 7, lines 4 - 5 have been amended to indicate that the linear density of the first portion is greater than the second portion. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter was added and that the amendments fully addresses the Office Action concerns and request that the objections be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

In paragraph 3, the Office Action objected to claims 6 and 8 due to informalities. Specifically, in claim 6 and 8, the Office Action alleged that it was uncertain what the units of "x" should be. Applicants have amended claims 6 and 8 to identify that the units for the variable "x" are millimeters. The applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 6 and 8 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 6, the Office Action objected to claims 7 and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In particular, with respect to claim 7, the Office Action states that none of the prior art discloses or renders as obvious a braid layer arranged on a prepreg sheet wherein an orientation angle of a braiding yarn in the braid layer is increased at a position in where a minimal value of a linear density distribution of the prepreg sheet is located in addition to the other structural elements claimed. With respect to claim 8, the Office Action stated that none of the prior art discloses or renders as obvious a braid layer having

Serial No. 10/814,776

a taper rate of an inner diameter being 0.007 to 0.10 with the angle difference between the braid angle at the butt side of a first portion and the tip side of the first portion being in a range of -0.03x to -0.05x in addition to the other elements of structure claimed.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the recitation of the base claim, claim 1. Claims 2, 3, and 6 have been amended to depend from independent claim 7. It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 7, and all claims that depend there from are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that claim 7 and all claims that depend there from be passed to issuance.

Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of the independent claim 1. Since independent claim 8 includes the recitations of a braid layer having a taper rate of an inner diameter being 0.007 to 0.10 with the angle difference between the braid angle at the butt side of a first portion and the tip side of the first portion being in a range of -0.03x to -0.05x, which the Office Action admits is neither disclosed or rendered as obvious by the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is now in condition for allowance. The Applicants request that the objection to claim 8 be withdrawn and that claim 8 be passed to issuance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In paragraph 5, the Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 6, and 10 - 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,478,689 to Hisamatsu. Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2, 3, and 6 have been amended to depend upon amended independent claim 7, which is allowable over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 - 3 and 6 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 10, claim 10 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 7, which the Office Action admits is neither disclosed or rendered obvious by the prior art. Therefore, since amended claim 10 includes the recitation of a braid layer arranged on a prepreg sheet wherein an orientation angle of a braiding yarn in the braid layer is increased at a position in where a minimal value of a linear density distribution of the prepreg sheet, amended claim 10 is allowable over the prior art. Furthermore, since claims 11 and 12 depend from allowable independent claim 10, claims 11 and 12 are also allowable over the prior art. Therefore, it is

Serial No. 10/814,776

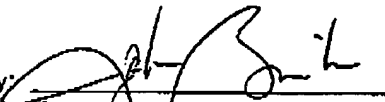
respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 10 – 12 be withdrawn and claims 10 – 12 be passed to issuance.

Serial No. 10/814,776

CONCLUSION

The foregoing response constitutes a full and complete response the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please contact John Briski at 404.885.3141.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
John M. Briski
Reg. No. 44,562

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP
Bank of America Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216
(404) 885-3141